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COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Soviet Troop Training Grounds of Letzing Heath

EVALUATION 25X1

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25X1 DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 31 August 1950

25X1 REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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1. Trucks

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passed through Letzingen (M 53/Y 53) on 17 July 1950
heading for the camp in the woods.

2. Three T-34 tanks were unloaded at the Neuhaudensleben (M 53/Y 51) railroad
station at 10:00 a.m. on 18 July 1950. Ten empty, heavy-duty flatcars
were standing by the loading ramp. Their labels read "empty to Cottbus".
The area at the loading ramp was marked by fresh tank tracks. About
11 o'clock on the same morning a train of eight boxcars occupied by
troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and coming from the barracks
in Hillersleben (M 53/Y 51) arrived in Neuhaudensleben where 80 more soldiers,
who had arrived aboard a passenger train from Magdeburg (M 53/Y 60) were
taken aboard. The destination of the train was unknown.

3. Twenty trucks and one passenger car

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passed through Born (M 53/Y 52) about
6 p.m. on 18 July 1950 going toward Ronneborn. Another truck, passing
through Born, had

4. A convoy of six fuel trucks

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left Neuhaudensleben toward Born about 6 p.m. on 20 July 1950. Between
Huetten and Born the convoy turned into a forest road leading toward the
camp in the woods.

5. Three T-34 tanks were unloaded from a train in Neuhaudensleben about 10 p.m.
on 22 July 1950. Ten other T-34 tanks and ten trucks
had previously left Neuhaudensleben for the camp in
the woods, going by way of Huetten.

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6. about 30 tanks were unloaded from a train in
Neuhaudensleben during the night of 28 July 1950. He also said that a new
regulation limited the unloading time for each train to two hours. Unloading work
in Neuhaudensleben is supervised by a general and his adjutant, a colonel
stationed in Hillersleben.

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2

25X1

7. Ten empty, heavy-duty flatcars were seen beside the loading ramp in **Neuhaldensleben** on 30 July 1950. There were fresh tank tracks in the surrounding area. Two trucks [redacted] and about 50 tank soldiers were on the road beside the loading ramp. Six SP guns, one motorcycle, two trucks and truck [redacted] with a field kitchen were unloaded in **Neuhaldensleben** on the afternoon of the same day.

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8. Seven T-34 tanks, twelve trucks [redacted] and one full-track ammunition carrier were unloaded in **Neuhaldensleben** about 6 p.m. on 31 July 1950.

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9. In late July 1950 it was learned that Soviet troops had left the **Theerhuette** (M 53/Y 53) area. Motor traffic indicated that these troops were stationed in the **Stendal** (M 53/Y 85) area. Reports of artillery pieces were heard from the direction of **Salchen** (M 53/Y 63). At the same time 20,000 to 30,000 troops, and about 500 tanks were in the camp in the woods. It was said that a staff of 120 officers, commanded by a general, was also there. The troops located in **Hillmersleben** in late July 1950 were estimated at about 2,000. A general was stationed there also.

10. Numerous tanks and many troops were unloaded from a train in **Neuhaldensleben** during the night of 3 August 1950 according to laborers. Many new tank tracks led toward the camp in the woods.

11. An empty train of 12 heavy-duty flatcars and 7 boxcars stood at the **neuhaldensleben** railroad station about 10 a.m. on 6 August 1950. Two large piles of boxes were on the loading ramp. About 4 p.m. five heavy SP guns of about 120 mm caliber, two light SP guns of about 70 mm caliber, truck [redacted] and another truck [redacted] were loaded on a train. *

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* [redacted] Comment. [redacted]
[redacted]

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[redacted] the troops were small elements of the 8th, 20th and 21st Gds **Meck** Divs which came to the **Letzling Heath**, possibly for short training cycles or demonstration exercises. Other component units of the 20th Gds **Meck** Div left **Neuhaldensleben** by rail on 12 August 1950. [redacted] In stating that 20,000 to 30,000 troops were in the camp in late July 1950, [redacted] meant all facilities in the wooded area of **Letzling Heath**, including the camps around **Born-Planken**, **Camp Belle** and **Camp Lottendorf**. The information is given credence because the bulk of the 19th Gds **Meck** Div moved to **Letzling Heath** for field exercises in April 1950, headquarters units of the Third Shock Army, including the 136th Gds **Br** Tank SP Regt from **Burg**, moved there in May 1950 and large elements of the 207th **Mtz** Rifle Div in late May 1950.

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